

coating compositions, and finishing agents are also provided.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please CANCEL claims 1, 4, and 11 and 15.

Please ADD claims 87 and 88.

--87. (new) A hydroxyalkyl(meth)acrylate composition comprising:

0.3 to less than 1.0 mole of polymerized lactone monomer being polymerized by ring-

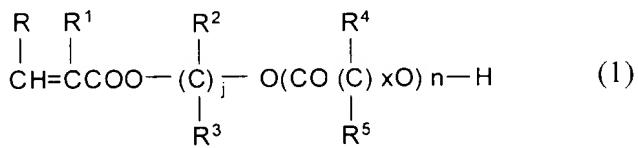
opening with respect to 1 mole of hydroxyalkyl(meth)acrylate, wherein the

content of the lactone monomer in the composition is 0-10% by weight, and

a proportion of monomers having two or more continuous chains ($n \geq 2$) of lactones

less than 37.4% (area by GPC),

the composition being represented by formula (1) described below,



where

R , R^1 , R^2 , and R^3 are independently a hydrogen or a methyl group,

" j " is an integer of 2-6,

xn pieces of R^4 and R^5 are independently a hydrogen or an alkyl group having a carbon number of 1-12,

" x " is 4-7,

" n " is an integer greater than or equal to zero, and

an average value of " n " in the composition is not less than 0.3 to less than 1.0.